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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Merseburg Airfield		
			25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	10 January 1955
REFERENCES			
PAGES	4	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	2 - two sketches on ditto
REMARKS	This is UNEVALUATED Information		

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Merseburg airfield between 4 November and 8 December 1954:

4 to 10 November. No air activity was observed.

11 November. Between 0830 and 1500, individual local flights were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s.

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12 November. One MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 took off at 1730 and landed at 1755.

13 November. Local flights were made by swept-back jet fighters between 1010 and 1325.

14 to 15 November. There was no air activity. Sixteen MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted on the landing field.

16 November. A MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 coming from the east landed at 1232. Three swept-back jet fighters individually landed at 1355. The take-offs by these aircraft were not observed.

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17 November. Two MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s took off at 1205 and landed at 1302. The aircraft were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks and practiced flying in formation.

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18 to 26 November. No air activity was observed.

27 November. Between 1115 and 1540, a U-MiG-15 made aerobatics. It took off at 1115, 1230, 1335 and 1455 and remained aloft for 40 to 45 minutes. After the take-off, the aircraft climbed steeply to an altitude of about 5,000 meters and practiced loops and rolls at this height. During each flight, 8 loops and 3 rolls, the latter repeated 5 or 6 times, were made. The loops had an estimated diameter of 1,000 meters. While performing

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rolls, the aircraft did not lose altitude. During the remaining flight time, turns were made. Upon completion of aerobatics over the field, the aircraft landed from the east towards the west.

28 November. A total of 21 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted on the landing field.

29 November. No air activity was observed.

30 November. Between 1600 and 1645, 3 take-offs and 3 landings were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s.

1 December. A MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 [] landed at 1520. No additional air activity was observed.

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2 December. There was no air activity.

3 December. Air activity started at 1545 when the lighting facilities were switched on. Local flights of 7 to 10 minutes duration were made. The aircraft took off at intervals of 10 to 25 minutes. At the beginning of air activity, 3 aircraft [] were seen. A total of 26 take-offs and 26 landings were observed. After the landing, the aircraft again switched on their landing lights while taxiing back to the take-off point. The searchlights located in the flying lane flashed up when a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 approached. The intervals between the individual signals of the red beacon light transmitting the letters MS were determined by means of a stopwatch. There was a time interval of 8 seconds between the last point of the S and the first dash of the subsequent M.

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4 to 6 December. No air activity was observed.

7 December. An element of 2 MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 landed at 1555. The aircraft approached flying in a right stagger formation and with an interval of 70 to 80 meters. They landed in this formation.

8 December. No air activity was observed. A total of 19 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted on the landing field. One of these aircraft was a two-seater [] which was parked near the fuel dump west of the southern hangar. The other 18 aircraft, namely one group of 14 and one group of 4 were parked without any pattern on the dispersal area of the alert formation at the southern edge of the landing field, just south of the eastern end of the runway. The noses of the aircraft pointed to the west. No aircraft were seen in the open hangars or in the revetments. 1

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2. No change was observed on the single-mast radio installation in the flying lane. A truck, [] mounting a searchlight was observed at the foot of the mast. The umbrella-shaped antenna was no longer seen east of the AA gun emplacement, in line with Berichtraain. Only a radio truck was parked at the site. The Token-type radar set was still located at the northern edge of the field south of the Ruth tree-nursery. The umbrella-type antenna previously observed in the northwestern corner of the field north of the runway was removed. Only a low wooden building was seen there. On 8 December, a mast with an unidentified

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antenna was observed between the target range and the fuel dump. An umbrella-type antenna was observed in the southeastern corner of the field 200 meters east of the southeastern hangar. The knife-type set on the earth bunker was replaced by a Dumbo-type radar set. Northeast of this set in the southeastern corner of the field there was still a Fishnet-type set. A radio installation of 5 masts, each 8 to 10 meters high, was located just west of the flight control tower. The type of bracing could not be determined. It was observed that the 5 masts were braced by several guy wires in the same manner and that the antenna systems were not of a conspicuous type. Four masts were arranged in a square and the fifth mast was apparently located in the middle of the square. A single mast about 15 meters high and braced by 4 guy wires each at 2 points was located next to the main guardhouse. While looking through the housing area from the south an umbrella-type antenna 12 to 15 meters high was observed for the first time. This antenna could not be seen from any other direction because the view was blocked by roofs. The umbrella-type antenna east of the vinegar factory was still observed. 2

3. The following observations were made in the housing area:
No personnel changes could be determined. Previously observed personnel were again repeatedly seen. A building at the edge of the area, which had previously been occupied by civilians, had to be vacated. It was included into the field area when the fence was newly laid. It was expected that the building would be occupied by dependents of the air force troops. On 8 December, 200 to 300 soldiers were drilling on the athletic field in the housing area. The soldiers stood in groups, mostly in double rows and were receiving basic training. They were armed with carbines. A group of 5 or 6 officers standing nearby apparently supervised the exercise. It was particularly noteworthy that while the sub-lieutenants were giving orders they were also smoking. 3
4. On 8 December, a new two-story building, presumably housing culture rooms, was observed in the housing area north of the athletic field at the southeastern side of the branch road. A temporary building had been newly constructed east of the southeastern hangar. 4
5. The following railroad tank cars moved to the field:
6 at 1400 on 12 November, 3 on 15 November, 2 on 23 November, and 3 on 27 November. Two tank cars were shunted to the airfield on 8 December. Three apparently new fuel containers, each about 4 meters long and about 1.75 meters in diameter, lay on the ground in the fuel dump. 5

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1. Comment. It is believed that Merseburg airfield is still occupied by a fighter division headquarters and a fighter regiment. Up to 21 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted on the landing field. After 11 November, air activity was resumed and included practice flights during daytime and at night, aerobatics, elements of two etc. 25X1
2. Comment. The information that a Kniferest-type radar set in the southeastern corner of the field was replaced by a Dumbo-type radar set is received for the first time. 25X1
3. Comment. The recruits who arrived in the fall in connection with the personnel exchange program receive military basic training at the field. 25X1
4. Comment. The construction of a new culture house and a temporary building at the field is reported for the first time. For location sketch of culture house, see Annex 1. For location of new temporary building, hangars and radar sets, see Annex 2. 25X1
5. Comment. Six fuel containers which were not yet dug in were previously observed in the fuel dump. 25X1
6. Comment. Except for truck which have previously been observed in Merseburg, 25X1

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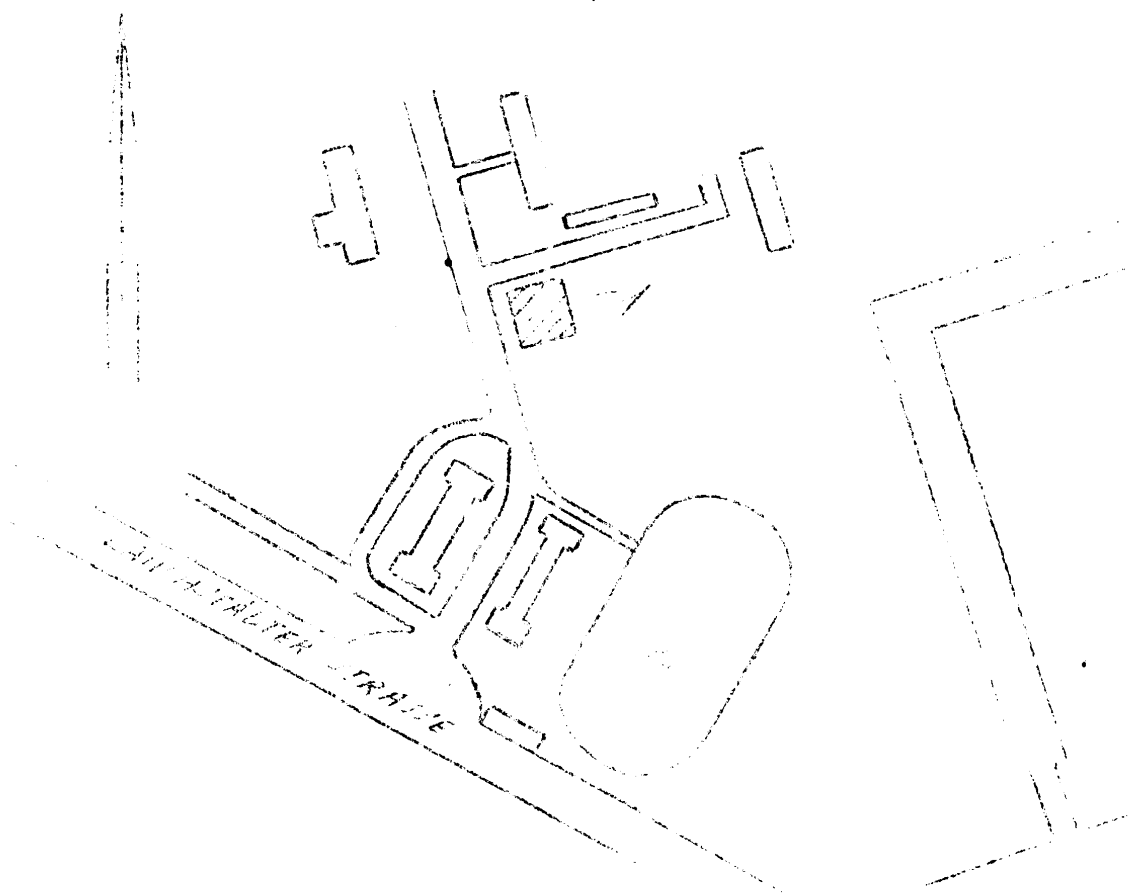
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Annex 1

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Location Sketch of Culture House at Herseburg Airfield



Legend:

- 1 Culture house, new structure
- 2 Athletic field

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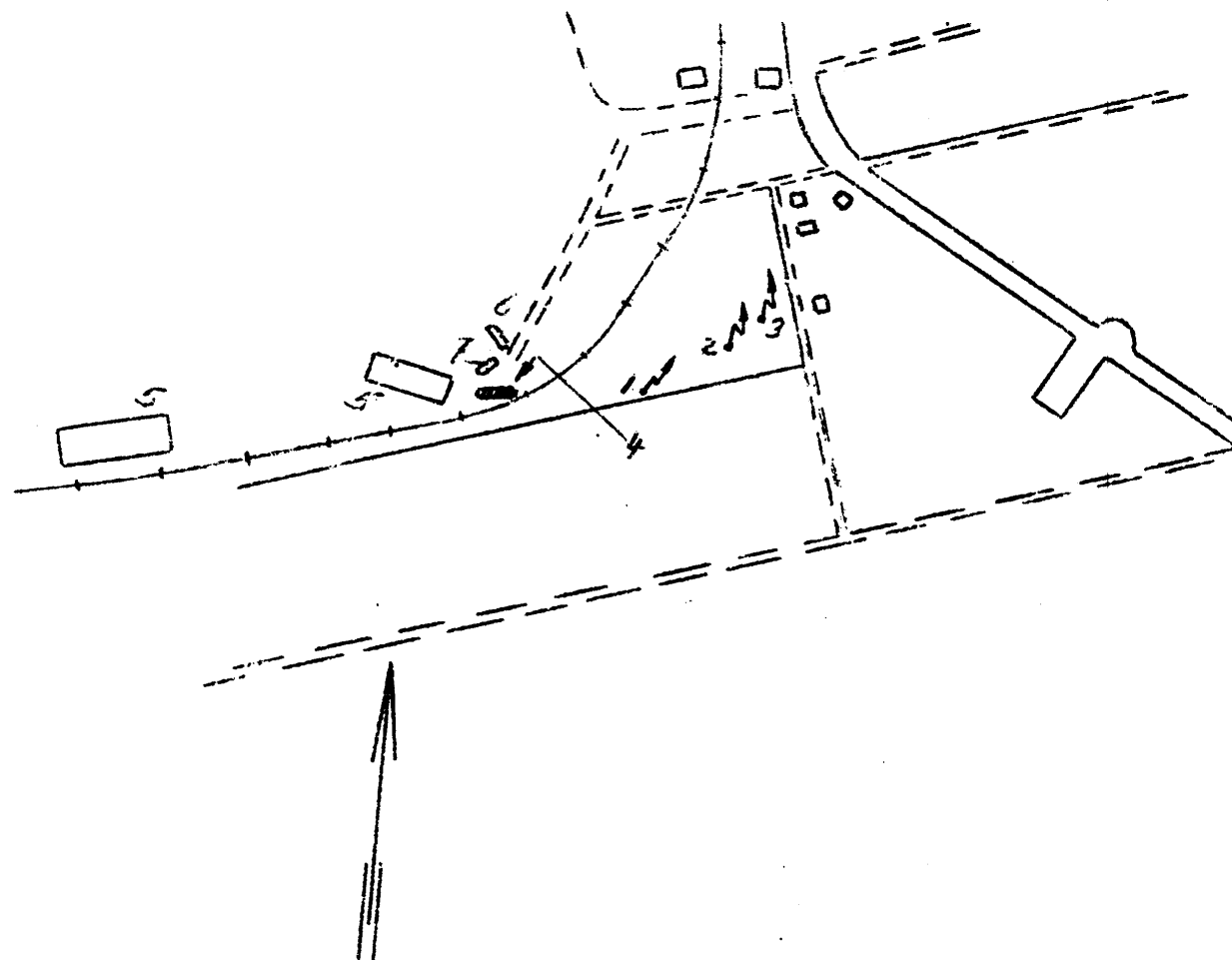
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Annex 2

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Merseburg Airfield



Legend:

- 1 Umbrella-type antenna
- 2 Dumbo-type radar set
- 3 Fishnet-type radar set
- 4 New temporary building
- 5 Hangars
- 6 Barracks for quartering purposes
- 7 Open shed for wood

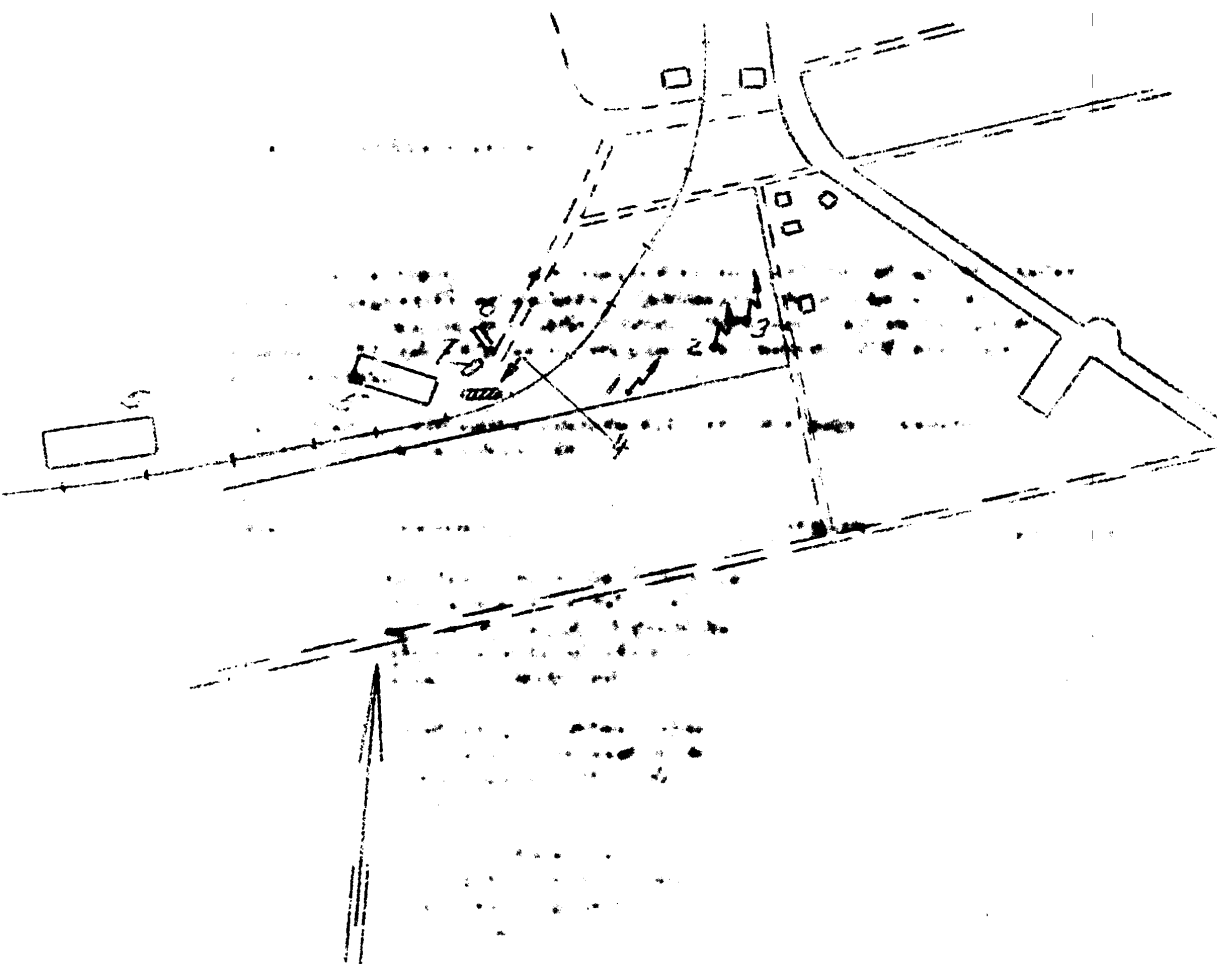
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Annex 2

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Marseberg Airfield



Legend:

- 1 Umbrella-type antenna
- 2 Dumbo-type antenna
- 3 Fishnet-type radar set
- 4 New temporary building
- 5 Hangars
- 6 Barracks for quartering purposes
- 7 Open shed for wood